IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus comprising:

an area name dictionary stored with area names;

a classified name dictionary stored with classified names of facilities;

a facility name dictionary stored with facility names;

input means for receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names;

identifying means for identifying, by referring said area name dictionary and said classified name dictionary, whether at least one name received is in an area name or a classified name, and

extracting means for extracting, from said facility name dictionary, a facility name satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by said identifying means as said area name or said classified name

~~identifying means for identifying names received and simultaneously distinguishing between area names and classified names as the occasion demands; and~~

~~extracting means for extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

number-of facilities extracting means for extracting from said facility name dictionary a number of facility names satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by said identifying means as said area names or said classified names; and

urging means for urging to input said area names or said classified names in case where said number of identified facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than predetermined number thereof, wherein

said extracting means extracts from said facility name dictionary a facility name satisfying narrow-down condition that designates said at least one name identified by said identifying means as said area name or said classified name in case where the number of

facilities names extracted by said number-of facilities extracting means is equal to or smaller than the predetermined number thereof

~~an area name dictionary stored with area names;~~

~~a classified name dictionary stored with classified names of facilities;~~

~~a facility name dictionary stored with facility names;~~

~~input means for receiving and taking in said area names; said classified names and said facility names;~~

~~identifying means for deciding whether the name received is an area name or a classified name;~~

~~number-of facilities extracting means for extracting the number of facilities belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary;~~

~~extracting means for extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is equal to or smaller than the predetermined number thereof; and~~

~~urging means for performing narrowing-down further in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than the predetermined number thereof~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

number-of-facility-names storage means for storing, for each narrow condition, the number of facility names satisfying narrow down condition designated by arbitrary name within said area names and said classified names;

number-of facilities extracting means for extracting, from said facility name dictionary, a number of facility names satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by said identifying means as said area names or said classified names; and

urging means for urging to input said area names or said classified names in case where said number of identified facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than predetermined number thereof, wherein

said extracting means extracts from said facility name dictionary a facility name satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by said identifying means as said area names or said classified names in case where the number of

facilities names extracted by said number-of facilities extracting means is equal to or smaller than the predetermined number thereof

~~an area name dictionary stored with area names;~~

~~a classified name dictionary stored with classified names of facilities;~~

~~a facility name dictionary stored with facility names;~~

~~number of facility names storage means for storing the number of facility names belonging to each area name and each classified name;~~

~~input means for receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names;~~

~~identifying means for deciding whether the name received is an area name or a classified name;~~

~~number of facilities extracting means for extracting the number of facilities belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary;~~

~~extracting means for extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number of facilities extracting means is equal to or smaller than the predetermined number thereof; and~~

~~urging means for performing narrowing down further in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number of facilities extracting means is greater than the predetermined number thereof~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said urging means urges to input said facility names when said number of identified facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than predetermined number thereof in case where said at least one name identified by the identifying means is said classified name

~~as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein when the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is equal to or greater than the predetermined number thereof and in case where the name identified by said identifying means is the classified name, said urging means urges the inputting of the area name and wherein said extracting means extracts a facility name belonging to both the area and classified names thus identified from said facility name dictionary~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said urging means urges to input further detailed area name when said number of identified facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than predetermined number thereof in case where said at least one name identified by the identifying means is said area name

~~as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein when the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is equal to or greater than the predetermined number thereof and in case where the name identified by said identifying means is the area name, said urging means urges the inputting of a further detailed area name; and~~

~~wherein when the name identified by said identifying means is the classified name, on the other hand, said urging means urges the inputting of the further detailed classified name~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the urging means urges to input said facility names after extracting said facility names by said extracting means

~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said input means is voice input means for inputting voice~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

specifying means for specifying one name out of said facility names by comparing inputted name after executing the urging of inputting said facility names with said facility names extracted by the extracting means

~~as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein said urging means reports the number of facility names extracted by said extracting means~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the urging means urges the inputting of a name for the specifying purpose in case where said identifying means is unable to specify said one name out of said facility names

~~as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, wherein names provided by combining a plurality of classified names are stored in said classified name dictionary~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 8, wherein in case wherein said identifying means is unable to specify said one name out of said facility names, the urging means urges the inputting of more detailed area names of classified names than said identified name identified by the identifying means as said name for the specifying purpose

~~as claimed in claim 8, wherein negative names other than the classified names are provided in said classified name dictionary~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval method, comprising of:

storing with area names in an area name dictionary;

storing with classified names of facilities in a classified name dictionary;

storing with facility names in a facility name dictionary;

receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names by input means;

identifying in identifying means, by referring said area name dictionary and said classified name dictionary, whether at least one name received is in an area name or a classified name; and

extracting in extracting means from said facility name dictionary, a facility name satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by said identifying means as said area names or said classified names

~~apparatus as claimed in any one of claimed in 2 or 3, wherein in case where said identifying means is unable to specify one name out of the names received, said urging means urges the inputting of a name for the specifying purpose~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A facility retrieval ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim 10, wherein in case where said identifying means is unable to specify one name out of the names received, said urging means urges the inputting of a further detailed name belonging to the classified or area name as for the specifying purpose.

Claim 12 (Original): A facility retrieval method comprising the steps of:

acquiring the predetermined number of facility names from area names and classified facility names received in accordance with a given procedure by referring to dictionaries; and

providing a facility name dictionary in case where the number of facility names is equal to or smaller than the predetermined number of facilities and retrieving the facility name received.

Claim 13 (Original): A facility retrieval method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

deciding whether the name received is an area name or a classified name;

urging the inputting of a name belonging to any name other than the name to which one distinguished name belongs; and

extracting a facility name corresponding to one name and any other name both.

Claim 14 (New): A facility retrieval apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the urging means urges to input said facility names after extracting said facility names by said extracting means.